

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Sas et al., WO03/032905 A2. The application has been amended to include a cross-reference as a continuation-in-part application of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/977,478 which was filed on October 15, 2001. The '478 application is the U.S. application that corresponds to WO03/032905 A2. A Petition under Rule 78 to add this cross-reference after the date required in the rules is submitted with this Amendment. Six of the inventors of the '478 application are the inventors of the present application. The '478 application describes the basic compound/method of which the present application is a modification. It is, accordingly, clear that the inventors possessed the invention as described in the claims at the time the application was filed.

Claims 1-8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's requests.

The application has been amended to correct minor informalities, to further distinguish the application over the prior art, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention so as to place the application, as a whole, into a prima facie condition for allowance. Great care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new subject matter into the application as a result of the foregoing modifications.

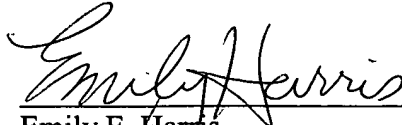
Accordingly, the purpose of the claimed invention is not taught nor suggested by the cited references, nor is there any suggestion or teaching which would lead one skilled in the relevant art to combine the references in a manner which would meet the purpose of the claimed invention. Because the cited references, whether considered alone, or in combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1-7 and 12-18, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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